



**March 1, 2004**

## **Pair sentenced in “drugs for guns” trade**

A federal judge has sentenced **Luis Olivera**, 27, and **Robert Camera**, 24, both of Providence, to federal prison terms for participating in a “drugs for guns trade” that was monitored by agents of the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives**.

The Office of the United States Attorney announced the sentences, which U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith imposed during separate proceedings in U.S. District Court, Providence. On February 19, Judge Smith sentenced Olivera to 115 months in federal prison, and on February 13, Judge Smith sentenced Camera to 51 months.

Olivera, of 79 Hawkins Street, and Camera, of 81 Hawkins Street, both pleaded guilty separately to cocaine trafficking and firearms violations. Both defendants have prior drug-trafficking convictions and, as convicted felons, are prohibited from possessing firearms.

At hearings during which Olivera and Camera pleaded guilty, Assistant U.S. Attorney Zechariah Chafee said that, in June 2003, ATF agents in Vermont arrested an individual as he was returning from Providence and seized a quantity of cocaine. That defendant subsequently admitted that he had been obtaining cocaine from an individual in Providence, whom he knew as “Louie,” in exchange for guns that he purchased in Vermont.

Additional investigation led agents to suspect Olivera as the source of the cocaine. On July 11, an undercover agent and the defendant from Vermont arranged for a transaction with Olivera to take place in supermarket parking lot off Branch Avenue. At about the same time,

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agents stationed outside 81 Hawkins Street observed Olivera dispatch Camera on a bicycle to the supermarket parking lot, where the undercover agent gave Camera four handguns in exchange for four clear plastic bags of cocaine.

Agents arrested Camera as he was pedaling out of the parking lot, carrying the handguns in a backpack. Other agents then arrested Olivera on the back porch of his home at 81 Hawkins Street.

The **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives** and the **ATF Firearms Trafficking and Violent Crimes Task Force** investigated the case as part of **Project Save Neighborhoods**. **Providence Police**, the **Rhode Island State Police**, the **Rhode Island Attorney General's Office**, and **Warwick Police** have officers assigned to the Task Force. Assistant U.S. Attorney Chafee prosecuted the case.

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